Wednesday, December 15, 2010 • • 16 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 7 P18 www.inquirer.net Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467

DEVASTATED Lauro Vizconde, husband and father of (from right) the murdered Estrellita, Carmela and Jennifer, weeps upon learning of the high court's decision.

Vizconde: This is a 2nd massacre

By Cathy Yamsuan

"THIS IS like a second massacre. Until when will we suffer? Now you know the plight of a victim of the justice system. Why should we still have faith?" Lauro Vizconde said moments after he heard the Supreme Court.

The widower's knees wobbled and his nephews had to help him to a seat by sofa as TV news crews jostled to record a final devastating blow to his search for justice since his wife and two children where brutally stabbed to death in his Parañaque home in 1991.

"This is it! This is what I have feared all along. All is lost," the 72-year-old sobbed as relatives and members of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) rushed to his three-bedroom bungalow at the upper end...

THIS A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SC acquits Webb et al.

Eyewitness' testimony found 'unbelievable'

For acquittal

HOW SWEET IT IS Hubert Webb, now 41, flashes a big smile as he speaks at a press conference in the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa City.

By Nikko Dizon

HUBERT WEBB and six others were acquitted yesterday of the grisly 1991 Vizconde massacre by the Supreme Court, which thrashed the testimony of the prosecution's star witness Jessica Alfaro as "incredible and unbelievable."

So, who did it? Who murdered Estrellita Vizconde and her daughters Jennifer, 7, and Carmela, 18, who was raped before being stabbed to death.

Voting 7-4, the high court acquitted Webb, Antonio Lejano, Michael Gatchalian, Hospicio Fernandez, Miguel Rodriguez, Peter Estrada and Gerardo Biong "for failure of the prosecution to prove their guilt beyond reasonable doubt."

All of them have been released. Biong, a former policeman convicted of destroying the evidence at the crime scene, was freed two weeks ago after having completed his sentence.

The decision does not cover

SUPREME A11

Against acquittal

Alfaro's detailed testimony 'clear, convincing, sincere'

By Marlon Ramos and Nikko Dizon

STAR WITNESS Jessica Alfaro's positive identification of Hubert Webb outweighed his alibi that he was not in the country when the Vizconde massacre occurred, a Supreme Court justice said, dissenting from the majority ruling acquitting Webb and six others of murder.

In voting against the acquittal of Webb and the others, Associate Justice Martin Villarama Jr. argued that the tribunal's previous decisions clearly held that "alibi cannot prevail over the positive identification of a credible witness."

"Against positive evidence, alibi becomes most unsatisfactory," Villarama said in his dissenting opinion.

Villarama disagreed with his colleagues' opinion that Alfaro's testimony was "inherently incredible" and that she was not a credible prosecution witness.

"Contrary to appellants' contention, Alfaro's detailed testimony appears clear and

ALFARO'S A10

No yellow ribbons; Webbs surprised

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THERE WAS no welcome banner or yellow ribbons at the Webbs' residence, a posh condominium at an exclusive enclave by Marina Bay in Parañaque City, a world away from their old neighborhood at BF Homes subdivision.

Not a room awaits the son who was finally coming home after 15 years in prison for the gruesome Vizconde murders in 1991, a case the Supreme Court basically said in a final ruling handed down yesterday that prosecution lawyers had bungled.

"If you look around, you could see that we have not yet prepared for this," Hubert Webb's teary-eyed mother, Elizabeth said in an interview with reporters at the family's sparkling condominium unit on

NO YELLOW A12

Inhibited

HIGHLIGHTS OF SC DECISION

Court says Alfaro an NBI agent

THERE ARE two "controlling issues" in the case, the Supreme Court said. These are:

- Whether or not Jessica Alfaro's testimony as eyewitness, describing the crime and identifying Hubert Webb, Antonio Lejano, Michael Gatchalian, Hospicio Fernandez, Peter Estrada, Miguel Rodriguez and two others as the persons who committed it, is entitled to belief.
- Whether or not Webb presented

HIGHLIGHTS A8

STAR WITNESS Jessica Alfaro with lawyers Rene Capanzano and Jovencito Zuño at the trial.

Jessica on the run, says US neighbor

By Cathy Yamsuan

JESSICA ALFARO is gone.

The star witness in the Vizconde massacre case may have fled the area where she works abroad upon learning that the Supreme Court reversed a lower court's conviction of Hubert Webb and six others, a male relative of Lauro Vizconde said last night.

"The last time I talked to her was Monday night. She sounded jubilant because we were confident that with all the testimonies, the Supreme Court would support the guilty verdict," said the relative, who refused to be identified.

JESSICA A8

Imelda gets back Leyte mansion, thanks to SC

WHAT'S HAPPENING to the high tribunal?

Former First Lady Imelda Marcos was jubilant yesterday after the Supreme Court returned a beach-front mansion that was seized by the government when a 1986 popular revolt toppled her dictator husband.

"This is indeed a very happy Christmas, and I will try to go to Leyte before this holiday season is over," Imelda said. An aide

IMELDA A11

Second FrontPage

Cleared by SC, justice faces impeachment case

By Michael Lim Ubac

FOR ALLEGED betrayal of public trust, the Supreme Court justice who was cleared of plagiarism is now the subject of an impeachment complaint at the House of Representatives.

'No justice without honesty'

'Not tainted with fraud'

Plagiarized ponencia

Nobel boycott not related to Pinoys' fate, says China

No hard feelings

By Marlon Ramos

Globe Asiatique head disowns fake loans

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE EMBATTLED president of Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp. has claimed that some of the real estate firm's personnel had recruited an undisclosed number of fake housing loan applicants.

But Delfin S. Lee said he did not tolerate the irregular practices when he found out about them.

In an affidavit he submitted to the justice department, Lee said he immediately ordered the filing of estafa charges against the erring real estate agents.

According to Lee, "when we found out that one of our employees was involved in recruiting bogus buyers (of housing units in Globe Asiatique's Xevera project in Pampanga), we sued him for estafa."

He described the employee, Francisco de la Cruz, as "one of the company's real estate agents on commission basis and part of its accounting department."

"Sometime in August, we learned that there were individuals recruited by Mr. De la Cruz and his sub-agent who turned out to be bogus unit buyers," Lee said.

The two "committed fraud without the knowledge of Globe Asiatique, much less my will," he said.

But in an affidavit, De la Cruz claimed to have procured fake buyers on orders of Lee.

"I categorically deny giving such instruction (to De la Cruz). Such would put Globe Asiatique in peril as it would be required to buy back the accounts. There is no logic in his claim," Lee said.

"There is no proof showing that I agreed to patently unlawful acts," he said in his affidavit.

Lee has called for the dismissal of the syndicated estafa charges brought against him last October by the Home Development Mutual Fund, also known as the Pag-IBIG Fund, and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

The two agencies claimed that Lee had enlisted "ghost borrowers" to fund his Xevera housing projects in Pampanga.

Earlier, Lee said the Pag-IBIG Fund and the NBI failed to show proof that Globe Asiatique management prepared and secured billions of pesos in government housing loans.

The businessman told the Department of Justice (DOJ) that contrary to the two agencies' claims, "no evidence was submitted to prove misappropriation of public funds."

Lee's co-respondents in the criminal case include Dexter Lee, GA executive vice president and chief finance officer; Cristina Salagan and Cristina Sagun, the heads of the GA accounting and documentation departments; and Lerma Ving, Rene Fontelera, Fernando Fontelera, Rosalyn Reyes, Rod Macaspac, Marcia Arevalo, Joan Barlaan, Christian Cruz, Rodolfo Maldonado, Samuel Sagadal, and Hans Ranges, all GA employees allegedly responsible for soliciting and paying off the firm's "ghost borrowers."

Also charged was lawyer Alex Alvarez of the Pag-IBIG Fund's legal department who contracted "most of the allegedly fraudulent loans that the GA filed with the state housing agency."

Pag-IBIG and the NBI said the respondents were part of a "syndicate with the intention of defrauding the state, resulting in the misappropriation of money contributed by the general public."

But according to Lee, "there are no specific allegations in the DOJ complaint on the formation of the so-called syndicate."

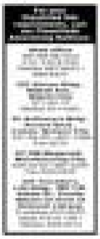
He said the criminal case was a "storyline fueled by misleading information fed to media."

Lee said Globe Asiatique was the "victim of a shame and blame campaign" instituted by the Pag-IBIG Fund" and the "panicking bag of people interested in [the firm's downfall]."

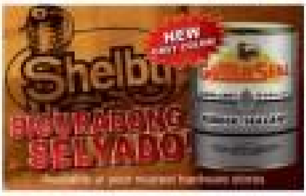
Sometime in mid-October, the Pag-IBIG Fund blacklisted the company on the orders of Vice President Jejomar Binay, who chairs the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

Binay had ordered an investigation into the Globe Asiatique case and the filing of appropriate charges against the firm to "protect the integrity of the Fund."

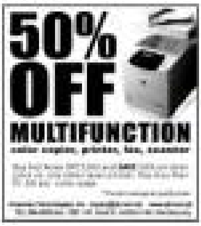
Pag-IBIG Fund officer-in-charge Emma Linda Faria said the agency had "cancelled, revoked and nullified the funding commitment line granted to Globe Asiatique," which means that the developer can no longer secure loans from Pag-IBIG.

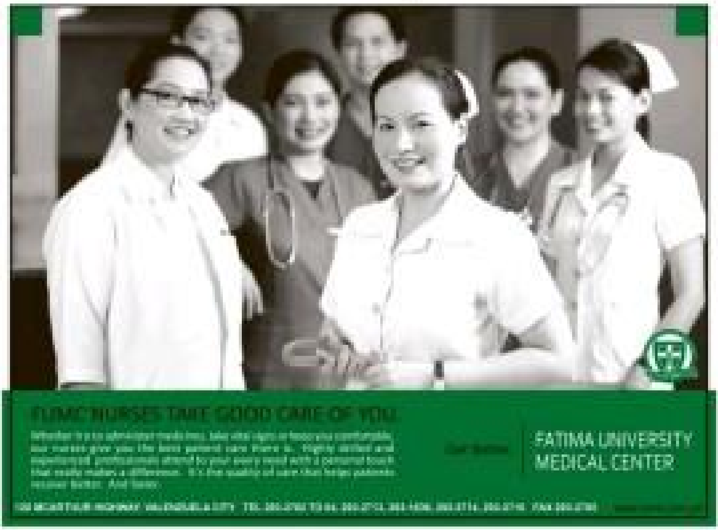


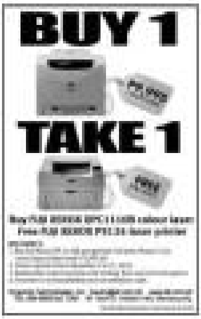
Polish, US choppers for Air Force



Lim, Luistro seen to sail through CA







'Cyber sex is not BPO'

THE BUSINESS Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) and the Commission on Information and Communications Technology are condemning cyber sex dens that call themselves business process outsourcing (BPO) service providers as it casts the country's outsourcing industry in a bad light.

"Cyber sex is not BPO. It's pure pornography. Cyber sex dens are not at all related to BPO and offshoring. We're reacting strongly against (calling cyber sex dens as BPO players). Even in pure suburban locations, subdivisions, or the web. It's being done anywhere. It's not outsourcing," BPAP chief executive Oscar Sanez said in a telephone interview yesterday.

He was reacting to the perception of some that cyber sex dens, like the one raided in Olongapo City recently, are part of the BPO community.

BPO service providers, as the term connotes, offered legitimate business services to companies that wanted to have third part to do their noncore functions, he explained.

He said BPO firms chose to set up shop in overseas locations such as the Philippines "to capitalize on the talent, scale and costs of the host country."

"This is why, as an industry, we want to stay away from being tagged as part of any illegal sex activity. The only commonality we have with [cyber sex dens] is their use of the Internet," he said.

"Our members are taking offense for companies like these that are declaring themselves BPO service providers. These cyber sex dens operate underground and don't even have permanent addresses.

Abigail L. Ho

Cop wants terror suspect's P470-M suit junked

By Julie M. Aurelio

Not an indigent

Mistaken identity

Illegal possession

Element of terrorism

No snakes on the plane

By DJ Yap

Wildlife trafficking

'Don't buy'

Paying off

HK: Travel alert not new

By Jerry E. Esplanada

HONG KONG's recent travel advisory on the Philippines was not a new one but an "upgrade" of the black alert the Chinese region issued immediately after the hostage-taking tragedy in Manila in August.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday what Hong Kong's security bureau did was to "merely add information on assessments made by other countries" on the peace and order situation in the country.

In a statement, the DFA quoted a clarification issued by the Hong Kong security bureau Monday which said: "The additional information put onto the bureau's Outbound Travel Alert web page, including the additional bullet point concerning the Philippines, was intended to provide information on assessments made by other administrations.

"Some overseas administrations had warned of the risk of possible terrorist attacks, including places frequented by foreigners, such as large shopping malls and convention centers.

Proper context

"The additional information is not an exceptional assessment by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government. The same was done to other countries where a travel alert is in force," the statement said.

DFA spokesperson J. Eduardo Malaya said they appreciated the clarification "as it places the additional information into proper context."

Malaya noted that the government "has undertaken significant measures to safeguard (all) tourists in the aftermath of the Aug. 23 hostage-taking incident where 22 Hong Kong nationals were taken hostage and eight of them died."

On Monday, the DFA and the Philippine consulate in Hong Kong had been told the new details in the travel warning were merely a "technical upgrade and not an upgrade of concern."

But Malaya said the DFA found it "surprising that the updating of Hong Kong's black travel advisory comes at a time when a number of Manila-based foreign embassies have lowered their travel alerts."

'Black advisory'

Hong Kong has a "black" advisory in force, despite other countries lowering the severity of similar warnings issued last month over the fear of terror attacks in the Philippines, Malaya said.

Hong Kong issued a black travel advisory for the Philippines in August after the eight tourists were killed by a disgruntled Filipino policeman who took them hostage on a bus in Manila.

The Hong Kong security bureau's advisory discourages all travel to the Philippines, for which the traditional peak tourism season is from December to February, when many Hong Kong tourists usually visit.

It was similar to advisories issued by several Western countries in November that warned of possible terror threats in Manila.

President Aquino strongly criticized the November advisories, saying they were not based on firm intelligence. Some of the foreign countries involved then lowered their alert levels, admitting they may have been too severe. *With a report from AFP*

The Daily Gospel

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Hubert according to Jessica Alfaro's testimony

ALFARO

'Bad trip'

Inside the house

Shocked

Highlights of SC majority decision: Alfaro an NBI asset/agent

The quality of the witness

The quality of the testimony

Webb's alibi

Alibi vs positive ID

Jessica on the run, says US neighbor

Rice price rollback sought

By Kristine L. Alave

Hubert mobbed; gleeful shrieks greet released men

[illegible]

Forgiveness, not bash

[illegible]

System is working

[illegible]

Answered prayers

[illegible]

TIMELINE: Vizconde Massacre

[illegible]

Imelda gets back Leyte mansion, thanks to Supreme Court

[illegible]

[illegible]

Golf course

[illegible]

Shoes

[illegible]

Regained political clout

[illegible]

Treasure hunters

[illegible]

Rehashed arguments

[illegible]

Stradcom to sue LTO chief for takeover 'conspiracy'

Less than half of OFWs' destinations certified safe

Protecting OFW rights

Livelihood at stake

Supreme Court acquits Webb et al.

From page A1

[illegible]

THE FAMILY AT PRAYER Former Sen. Freddie Webb leads his family in prayer during a thanksgiving visit at St. Joseph Church in Tambo, Parañaque.

How they voted

[illegible]

Lingering doubt

[illegible]

BROTHERLY LOVE An emotional Hubert is welcomed by his youngest brother Jason shortly after his release from prison.

HUBERT is welcomed by brother Fritz.

HUBERT talks to his sister, TV broadcaster Pinky Webb.

[illegible]

NBI 'darling'

[illegible]

'Mr. X'

[illegible]

Documented alibi

[illegible]

No yellow ribbons; Webbs surprised at Hubert's homecoming

From page A1

[illegible]

Caught by surprise

[illegible]

Making up for lost time

[illegible]

Best Christmas ever

[illegible]

15 wasted years

[illegible]

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Courting danger

EDITORIALS

Dangerous irony

Of stolen condo units and smuggled onions

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Bad decision

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

'Have you forgotten us, Mr. President?'

COMMENTARY

Dennis Murphy

A new form of 'sexting'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

'Walang cuenta'

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

Dirty wars

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

OFWs detained longer than prison sentences

LETTERS

FIAN denies proposing CCT for Luisita workers

Gov't has enough power to go after GMA

Performance Based Regulation allows utilities to recover losses from closure

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Kidnappers release 2 MSU students

₱250,000 paid for 'lodging'

MARAWI CITY—Kidnappers yesterday freed two students of the Mindanao State University (MSU) they held in Pagayo in Lanao del Sur for almost a week.

SMALL PLEASURES

A child enjoys a ride in a merry-go-round in Davao City courtesy of the city government which offered the rides for free as part of its Christmas celebration.

7,000 refuse to return home after Dec. 2 clash

16 towns pursue fight to retain cityhood

GMA district to host 3 of 4 Pampanga landfills

Rice black bugs attack farms in Sorsogon towns

12-kg tagged turtle set free

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

'Light of the North' marks centennial

Highest happiness

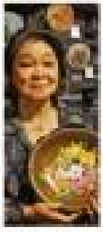
In Aurora, health, reading programs help kids see bright future

'By investing in children, we invest in the future'

Vices

Love for books

Healed through art



Heart bypass

Food and environment

Healing

Cabinet members, bishops to hold dialogue today on population policy

By Christine O. Avendaño

PALACE officials will hold a dialogue today with Catholic bishops to discuss the latter's questions about the Aquino administration's population policy.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said yesterday that President Aquino will not attend the dialog with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. Instead, the bishops will meet with Cabinet members, including Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, Health Secretary Enrique Ona, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and Presidential Management Staff Secretary Julia Abad.

He said the CBCP panel will include Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Socrates Villegas, chair of the Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education, and Imus Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle, chair of the Episcopal Commission on the Doctrine of the Faith, among others.

"It's simply a dialog on what their positions are, where their reservations are coming from, both from a medical and legal point of view," Lacierda said of today's Palace-CBCP dialog to be held at the [illegible] Center in Manila.

It will be the second meeting between the two camps. President Aquino attended the first meeting held last month at the [illegible].

Mr. Aquino will be in Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro today for various engagements.

CBCP backs Palace plan to let PCGG probe GMA

THE CATHOLIC Bishops' Conference of the Philippines is supportive of a Malacañang official's proposal to push for the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) handle the investigation of the alleged string of corruption cases that took place during the Arroyo administration.

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, CBCP public affairs committee chair, said in a phone interview that if the "right people" would be handling the investigations, then there was nothing objectionable to the proposal made by Magdangal Elma, a newly appointed member of President Aquino's legal team.

Elma, a former appellate court justice and PCGG commissioner during the administration of Joseph Estrada, released his proposal to media the other day shortly after the Supreme Court struck down Mr. Aquino's Truth Commission as unconstitutional.

Trial balloon

Iñiguez, reacting to what could be a trial balloon, said, "What's important is that the right people, who have genuine concern for the country, will be put in the position and given the task."

He suggested that the President bring members of the truth commission to the PCGG.

Elma suggested on Monday that the PCGG could be an alternative option because the mandate of the agency (created in 1986 to go after the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses) had already been recognized by the Supreme Court.

Malacañang, however, yesterday denied that it had already decided to use the PCGG.

Palace officials said they were studying "several" options in response to the Supreme Court ruling on the truth commission, including the proposal made by Elma.

President Aquino himself clammed up when asked about Elma's proposal to use the PCGG instead.

"The legal panel is presently checking out possible courses of action. I am awaiting their recommendations," President Aquino said in a text message to Palace reporters.

Not 'prudent'

The Palace indicated it was not too happy about Elma's move the other day to release his recommendation to President Aquino to the media.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said the "prudent thing to do was just to submit the proposal) to the President."

"But since it's out, again, we're saying that all the recommendations will be studied by the legal team," Lacierda told reporters.

He added, however, that there was no need for the Palace to reprimand Elma for what happened.

Lacierda said the Palace legal team was expected to come up with a decision "soon."

Lacierda also denied the Palace was waging war on the judiciary, as suggested by Alberto Agra, the last justice secretary of the Arroyo administration.

"We are not at war with the Supreme Court. We believe that we have the right to express our disappointment at the decision of the Supreme Court," he said. *Reports from Jerome Aning and Christine O. Avendaño*

THE HEADS of the LGU finalists are (from left) Mayor [illegible] of Upi, Maguindanao; [illegible] of Bongao, Tawi-Tawi; [illegible] of SK Pendatun, Maguindanao–SLAM; [illegible] of Kapatagan, Lanao del Sur; [illegible] of Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao–SLAM; [illegible] of Datu Piang, Maguindanao–SLAM; [illegible] of Wao, Lanao del Sur; [illegible] of Pagalungan, Maguindanao–SLAM; Gov. Abdusakur Tan of Sulu; and Mayor [illegible] of Sultan Mastura, Maguindanao.

8 make it to Galing Pook ARMM finals

EIGHT PROGRAMS in local government units (LGUs) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) are the finalists in the first Galing Pook Awards-ARMM.

The Galing Pook Awards have been recognizing innovative practices in local governance since 1993, honoring over 250 innovative programs from 170 LGUs nationwide. This year's winners will be known and awarded in ceremonies at Malacañang early next year.

The finalists of Galing Pook Awards-ARMM—which acknowledges the cultural uniqueness of the region—were chosen from 41 community programs through the support of USAID under the TAGA Project with The Asia Foundation.

The ARMM government and the Local Government Academy are among the main institutional partners of the Galing Pook Foundation, which manages the awards program.

The eight programs and LGU finalists are:

- Tulay sa Kalilintad: Peace Building (Kapatagan, Lanao del Sur)
- Sulu Area Coordinating Center (Sulu)
- SLAM Health Program for the Poor (Southwestern Ligawasan Alliance of Municipalities in Maguindanao: Datu Piang, Pagalungan, Gen. Salipada K. Pendatun and Sultan sa Barongis)
- Solid Waste Management Program (Wao, Lanao del Sur)
- Bisita sa Barangay (Sultan Mastura, Maguindanao)
- Administrative and Fiscal Reforms for Local Development (Bongao, Tawi-Tawi)
- Project [illegible]: Education through Community Participation (Upi, Maguindanao)
- Watershed Co-Management Development Program (Wao, Lanao del Sur)

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2 bishops feel sad for Lauro but back SC verdict

'This is like a second massacre, all is lost,' laments Vizconde

LAURO Vizconde is comforted by relatives upon learning that the accused in the murder of his family have been acquitted by the Supreme Court.

HAPPY FAMILY A portrait of the Vizcondes, Estrellita (center) with daughters Jennifer and Carmela.

'Carpio has reputation'

No justice in this life

P-Noy airs sympathy for Vizconde

Leave it all to God

All dishonorable

What's the next step?

No Christmas tree

If not them, who committed the gruesome murders?

Not off the hook, yet

Alfaro's detailed testimony 'clear, convincing and sincere'

Inconsistencies

In best position

Numbers not enough

Passport, airline tickets

Not impossible

Finance exec not from RIPS, says DOF

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance (DOF) yesterday clarified that DOF official Ruben Fregoso, accused of attempting to bribe a Customs official into releasing smuggled goods, is not an officer of the department's Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS) and is facing several cases and legal proceedings before the Ombudsman, the Civil Service Commission and the Court of Appeals.

Finance Assistant Secretary Peter L. Calimag stressed, "Fregoso is not in any way connected with RIPS and is currently on a floating status with the DOF ... awaiting ... [illegible]."

Fregoso is accused of attempting to force Customs collector ... [illegible] ... releasing 19.8 million worth of smuggled goods intercepted at the Manila Harbor last month. Fregoso allegedly warned ... [illegible] ... would be attacked by certain broadcasters in their radio programs if the smuggled goods were not released.

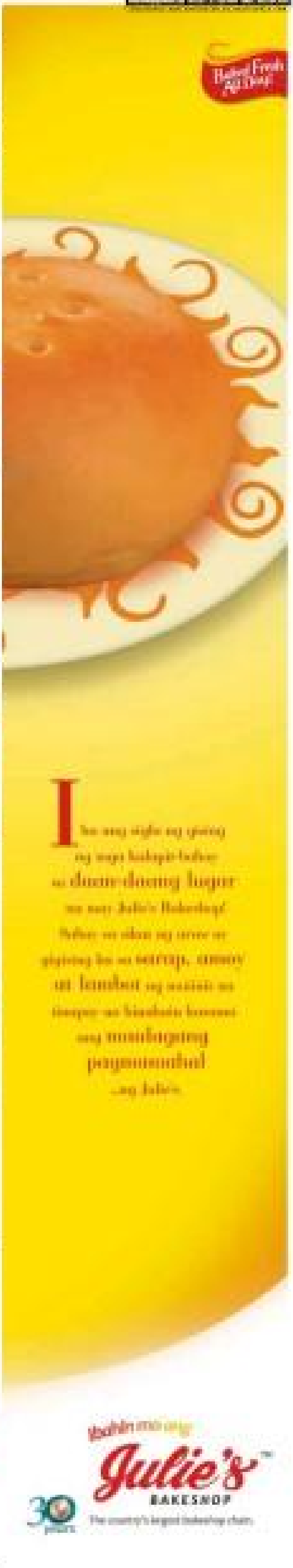
Calimag said that on May 27, 2007, RIPS filed an unexplained wealth complaint before the Ombudsman after Fregoso failed a lifestyle check.

"Fregoso is now facing graft charges before the Ombudsman for unexplained wealth and was suspended by the Office of the Ombudsman on June 29 of 2007," Calimag said.

Previous to this, Fregoso was also charged by the department's Board of Personnel Inquiry for alleged absences without official leave on April 17, 2006, for which he was suspended in August 2006.

A DOF memorandum on May 30, 2006 also warned then Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales that Fregoso was not in any way connected with RIPS.

Undersecretary for Revenue Operations and Legal Affairs Giovanni Carlo Bacordo said, "We are very bothered and deeply concerned with these latest allegations against Fregoso."



REACTIONS

Outrage over decision, sympathy for Vizconde

By the Inquirer bureaus

Chiongs' case

Rule of law

Maguindanao massacre

Duterte reaction

Tagaytay 5

Webb acquittal makes waves on the Web

'Utmost indignation'

Twitter

'Nobody else to blame'

'Whatever happened to Webb's maid who washed his bloody clothes?'

'Money involved'

Where's Webb's maid?

Last years

Justice died

ANTONIO LEJANO II, son of actress Pinky de Leon, walks free.

MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ

FACES OF THE FREED

PETER ESTRADA

HOSPICIO PYKE FERNANDEZ

MICHAEL GATCHALIAN

P200M FOR VP

Lawmakers agree to give Binay pork

By Gil Cabacungan and TJ Burgonio

Razified

Not in people's interest

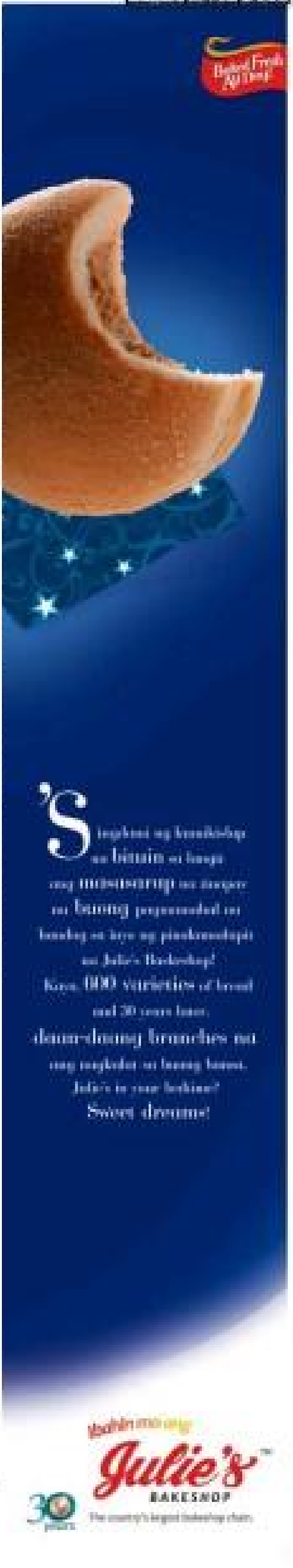
Senate's pork

Safety tips for US expats

By Jerry E. Esplanada

Evacuation plan

Trademark infringement case settled



Suntrust
Sentosa
CALAMBA, LAGUNA
Be part of one big, happy family.
Sentosa
Phase 1
Terasu
Phase 2
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A plus METRO

Court dismisses case vs Kho

Hayden: Sweet redemption; Katrina: I'm being tested

By Nina Calleja

A JUDGE dismissed yesterday the case filed by actress Katrina Halili against former celebrity doctor Hayden Kho Jr. last year after videos of them having sex ended up on the Internet.

In a 16-page decision, Judge Rodolfo Bonifacio of the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 159 granted Kho's motion for the dismissal of the case against him, saying the prosecution failed to present sufficient evidence against him.

Lorna Kapunan, Kho's lawyer, said the decision was "sweet redemption" for her client. Halili, on the other hand, viewed it as a test of faith.

"She was composed and calm when she learned about the decision. She told me she was only being tested," her counsel Raymond Fortun said.

DID YOU KNOW

'Kuliglig' drivers fail to get TRO

Number-coding scheme for PUBs here to stay—MMDA

Malate's landmark café hit by fire

Skyway extension opens today

Van with mail cargo hijacked in Cainta

Court dismisses case vs Kho

METROBRIEFS

Indian trader abducted

Assange due in court to fight extradition

S. African president sues over cartoon

Berlusconi wins first round in showdown

6-month suspension readied vs Anwar

WorldBriefs

US snow traps 100 motorists

Beijing losing battle against gridlock

Antinuke protesters convicted in US

Tougher ban sought on eating dogs

Search ends for missing fishermen off Antarctica

Humans vs IBM machine

The WORLD

No victory a year into Afghan surge

TALIBAN fighters open up new fronts in Afghanistan.

KABUL—One year after US President Barack Obama ordered a troop buildup to halt the Taliban's momentum, the war in Afghanistan has not broken decisively in favor of US-led forces—at least not yet.

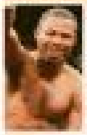
US report

Deteriorating

Perception

US mourns Holbrooke, 'warrior for peace'

WASHINGTON —



WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Mosley** is best choice–Arum /A31

SPORTS

Editor Teddy Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

- **Support** pours for PH booters /A31

Final PBA playoffs cast known today

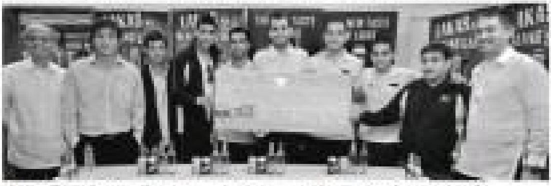
Alaska, Meralco shoot for crucial wins

By Musong R. Castillo

Open golf bereft of key players starts at Valley

Windfall for PH booters

ABI, anonymous donor follow Smart-PLDT lead



Black eyes young SEA Games five

SPORTSWATCH

Philspada gets swimwear company's support

Final group sees action in 'Rambulan' today

NFGB 8-stag finals fire off in 21 venues Friday

SBP wants more PBA aces

Shame on swim, football officials

INSIDE SPORTS

Martinez out to break up booters?

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

PACMAN'S NEXT FOE

Mosley is best choice–Arum

Donaire sees tough fight with Montiel

DONAIRE

Tac bags 2 more golds

St. Francis, PCCr turn back Uclaa rivals, share top spot

San Agustin forges Toby's double

Filipinos no longer face podium shutout in Skyway run

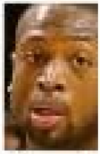
Up-and-down year for pool icon Reyes

CLEAN LIVING

Marcelo R. Mijo

Top CDO nursing school reaches cheerdance final

Heat stretch victory streak



IN THIS ISSUE

- Biz Buzz:PPP: Post-Lehman PH Partying /B2
- Workers and the need for 'mental refreshment' /B14

BUSINESS

Gov't bond swap program hits ₱200B

Sets benchmark for 25-year debt paper at 8.125%

THE GOVERNMENT will issue a total of ₱200 billion in 25- and 10-year treasury bonds in exchange for existing bonds in what officials said was the Philippines' biggest bond-swap program.

The latest debt swap will also see the debut of the longest tenor of benchmark bonds at 25 years.

Benchmark bonds carry interest rates that the market may use as guides for debt instruments of the same length of maturity.

GOV'T B4

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

43.800

STOCK MARKET

32.65

Stocks end higher

STOCKS B4

Lucio Co's Puregold to go public in 2011

LUCIO B2

Stocks end higher

From page B1

PPP: Post-Lehman PH Partying

Biz Buzz

By the staff

Ayalas get some MVP lovin'

Cloud of doubt

End of the "Cold War"

Gov't bond swap ...

From page B1

Lucio Co's ...

From page B1

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

TV5 sees 95% urban coverage by 2011

By Paolo S. Montecillo

TELEVISION INDUSTRY newcomer TV5 is confident of its chances of being one of the top networks in the country as it continues to invest heavily to expand its reach and improve the quality of its programming.

By the middle of next year, TV5's operator Associated Broadcasting Corp. (ABC) said it expected to be able to cover 95 percent of the country's urban areas from 85 percent by the end of this year.

The company also announced a partnership with Indonesian TV network Indosiar, which is owned by the Salim group. This is the same family that owns Hong Kong-based investment firm First Pacific Co. Ltd., which through its managing director Manuel V. Pangilinan, owns several businesses in the Philippines.

"We are bringing an international company. It will be a joint venture with the Salim group and it will be responsible for the marketing, distribution and sale of content that we own," TV5 president and CEO Ray Espinosa said.

"That has always been part of our vision when we went into the media business. We weren't just looking at the Philippines. We also want to be seen outside of the country," he said.

Espinosa declined to disclose further details regarding the partnership, but said this would let the company bring show formats developed in the country and sell these to its partners abroad.

Meanwhile, Espinosa said TV5 has made big strides in terms of improving its ratings in the past week due primarily to the popularity of its game show "Willing Willie," which airs on the same time slot as news programs on other channels.

Hosted by TV personality Willie Revillame, "Willing Willie" for the first time won the number one slot on prime time last Wednesday, beating ABS-CBN's "TV Patrol" and GMA-7's "24 Oras."

"Willing Willie" made it to the top of the ratings again on Friday, the latest survey by AGB Nielsen for the vote-rich Metro Manila area showed.

Espinosa said the company plans to establish its dominance first in the prime time slot before making inroads in the other time slots such as the noontime.

Business

IMF pushes amendments to BSP charter

₱14-B Meralco-Napocor settlement still valid

Court to decide on deal's merits

PSALM to bid fuel supply contracts

People, Events & Products

Be generous with your 'hellos' this holiday season

PROGRAM FOR WELFARE OF WOMEN, CHILDREN IN MINDANAO SIGNED

2nd ex-Citibankers reunion to support Roxin

Bits & Clips

Printing industry holds election

6th Midnight Flea Market at Tiendesitas

Zero-threat environment with Cyberoam

Apple iPad soon at Power Mac Center

Filipiniana books as gifts this Christmas

Usage reward awaits new Equicom cardholders

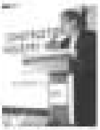
Mart celebrates Christmas via low prices

20 Filipino nurses off to London to study

Global Finance cites BDO

Protacio's ordination

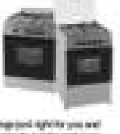
PCA UNVEILS CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ROAD MAP



ASEAN VINYL INDUSTRY ADVISORY BODY ESTABLISHED

Product Files

Holiday cooking with Fujidenzo



adilibria combines feminine design with sporting performance

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

GOLDEN GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES, INC.

POEA Certificate No.: 175-LB-100110-R

The public is hereby notified as regards to Golden Gateway's change of office location from its former address: 4290 Emilia Street in Makati City to its new business site: "101 Eagle Building, Don Gil P. Garcia Street, Capitol Site in Cebu City".

The management and staff of Golden Gateway International Manpower Services, Inc. wish to enjoin all of its clients, business associates, and other trading partners to directly transact with the company at its new office location.

For other inquiries please call us at telephone number (032) 253-1566 or fax your messages to (032) 253-1548.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bohol
Municipality of Dilingan

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Rehabilitation of Anahaw Small Water Impounding Dam

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

First Laguna Electric Cooperative, Inc.

INVITATION TO BID

OBITUARIES

JOSEFA CHAN DUJUNCO

MARIETTA "Yiette" RAVALO TRIUNFANTE

of DARAGA, ALBAY

died peacefully on December 8, 2010 at the age of 63.

A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth.

– Ecclesiastes 7:1

Her husband Charro; children, Ria, Anna and Roy; sons-in-law Danilo and Ronald; grandson Carlos Nicolas; brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Ligñon Hill Memorial Chapels, Bogtong, Legazpi City.

Interment will be on Friday, December 17, 2010 at Forest Lake Memorial Gardens, Tagontong, Legazpi City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Gate Parish in Daraga, Albay.

"My life up to the Lord... yet in our hearts we remain."

Death Notice

WALFREDO S. VIRIÑA

Remedios Limcaco-Osmeña

Died peacefully in the Grace of Our Lord on December 12, 2010 at the age of 90.

Her beloved husband, PATRICIO OSMEÑA JR.; daughter TERESA OSMEÑA-MARTINEZ, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at National Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, December 16, 2010 at the La Loma Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Business

PDIC takes over Pasig-based rural bank

By Doris C. Dumlao

FIRST COUNTRY Bank, a microfinance bank founded by a former education official, was padlocked by banking regulators due to insolvency and recently taken over by the state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

PDIC took over the Pasig-based rural bank starting Dec. 10, PDIC president Jose Nograles confirmed to Inquirer yesterday.

Other banking sources said that prior to the bank's collapse, it was aggressively trying to boost liquidity by offering hefty interest rates.

Based on the bank's website, for instance, First Country was offering a 13 percent annual interest rate for time deposits held for at least a year. This was despite the fact that benchmark 25-year bond yields have fallen below 10 percent a year. The website was also emphatic in pointing out that it was operating under the authority of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and had even placed the BSP logo right beside the contact person for those wishing to place money in its savings, time deposits and investment products.

BDO's Business Mortgage Loan Kapihan in Metro Manila

[illegible]

BUSINESS

Peza seen breaching export, investment targets

2010 shipments of goods seen up by more than 15%

By Abigail L. Ho

Foreign business groups challenge gov't to step up

PH seen to stay No. 1 in call center industry

Sector expected to post $9B in revenue this year

THE FIRM'S NEW HOME

BPO boom prompts building of more office space

SSS released P9.3B in Dec.

More e-jeeps expected to hit the streets

Foreign business ...

Meralco declares cash dividends

Maibarara earmarks ₱100M for exploration

Thrift banks post 7.93% rise in bad debts-to-total loans ratio

Lenders now more aggressive in extending credit

Asia seen steering world economic growth in '11

China tackles inflation

Region easing its way out of emergency stimulus programs

Asia stocks rise on China economic growth

GE buying Wellstream for $1.3B

11 nations to ink trade deal

Fed to review $600-B bond-buying program

Last meeting for the year

Japan business hails government's corporate tax cut program

Nissan, Mitsubishi to expand business tieup

Airbus sees faster sector growth

BUSINESS

Workers and the need for 'mental refreshment'

Urge to always stay connected hounds busy executives

By Mark Dixon

'Set yourself realistic goals every day and work until you run out of steam —or time'

'Take one thing at a time, and pace yourself. Make sure you have enough variety in your life'

MOTORING

Tell us your feedback
E-mail us: motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Jung R. Amaro

Gifts to last beyond the holidays

By Jason K. Ang

ALONG WITH horrendous traffic, overeating and guilt, Christmas is a time for rekindling family ties and friendships and—above all—it's a time for giving. We've put together a grab bag of gift ideas, ranging from quite practical to the extravagant.

For kids and the young at heart, we found a unique-looking set of automotive building blocks. Automoblox is a wooden construction toy that allows one to mix and match different automotive bodies, cockpits and wheels. The original set are about 200mm long and come with plastic figures, while the mini line cars are palm-sized. Designed by Patrick Calello, the toys have wooden car body sections with plastic, polycarbonate wheels and [illegible]. With names like the C9 Sports Coupe, T9 Pickup Truck and S9 Sedan, the vehicles follow a clean, retro-futuristic design theme.

It's a good way to teach young kids fine motor skills and demonstrate how cars are assembled. (Of course, a better way would be to arrange a field trip to one of our local car plants, but that is another story.) For grownups, it's a good way to relieve stress after a hard day at the office. The mini vehicles are priced from P[illegible] and up, with a boxed set of three at around P1,[illegible]. Available at Powerbooks.

Reading up on cars is always an excellent way to spend some leisure or bathroom time, both of which should be plentiful during the holidays. There's the excellent Car Design Yearbook series by Stephen Newbury. Made for the armchair Randy Rodriguez in all of us, Car Design Yearbook compiles all the production and concept cars released that year. (Mr. Rodriguez is the Filipino designer of the Nissan [illegible].) Plenty of photos are coupled with the fascinating stories behind individual models as well as automotive design trends.

For rabid motorsports fans, you can't do much better than giving them a (very heavy) copy of Ferrari Formula One or McLaren Formula One. Rainer Schlegelmilch is the man behind the lens, and no one has captured the unforgettable spectacle of the sport, and the quiet moments when drivers think that no one's looking, as well as he has. For non-Ferrari and McLaren fans, Mr. Schlegelmilch has also published the amazing Grand Prix de Monaco and several marque-based [illegible]. Car Design Yearbook and the Schlegelmilch books are available at National Bookstore, from P[illegible] and up.

Actually one gift can really trump an F1 book, and that's a trip to one of the 2011 races. 2010 has been one of the most suspenseful seasons in recent memory, but indications are 2011 will be even better, with stronger Mercedes and McLaren teams. The Australian Grand Prix (March 27) is closer than it seems. Red Rock Travel has packages starting at US$[illegible] for the Malaysian GP to US$[illegible] for Melbourne. Visit [illegible].

For those who want to give something practical, as well as character owners who want to consider their car a worthy recipient, Bosch has a multitude of products to improve performance, safety and convenience. From long-life platinum spark plugs to quality headlamp bulbs which maintain their performance, Bosch has the right product for nearly all car models. Heavy drivers may appreciate a set of Bosch Europa Horns, which reportedly emit a strong and clear tone for safety. Available at various Bosch dealers around the country.

Motoring-branded watches (e.g., Breitling for Bentley) may be a smart buy when prestige and ultimate value is concerned, but watches with a strong relationship to motoring or racing can be among the ultimate gifts. One of the most desirable is new Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Openworked, featuring a skeletonized movement. A certain Michael Schumacher, who recently changed allegiances from Omega, certainly agrees. Prices will be [illegible] at around US$[illegible]. Available from Lucerne.

Speaking of giving, Christmas is an occasion for giving some thought to the less fortunate. Time is certainly the best gift; otherwise, you can surely find some charities or charitable friends who will gladly accept your donations. Help given to others is most are the gifts that will last beyond the holidays.

AUTOMOBLOX is a good way to teach young kids fine motor skills and demonstrate how cars are assembled.

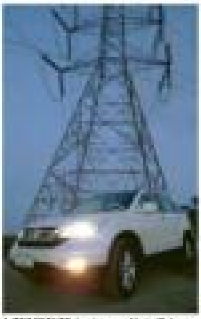
MOTORING-RELATED watches can be among the best gifts.

FORMULA One books for a motorsports fan.

READ up on Randy Rodriguez and other fascinating stories in Car Design Yearbook.

SOMETHING for the horn-y driver.

Asimo's 'all-arounder'



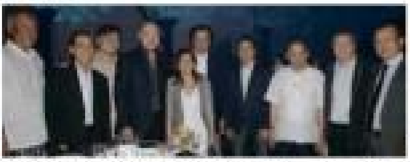
Car geek

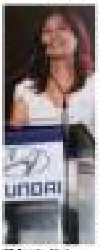
Skid Marks

Botchi Santos

Victory Liner celebrates 65th anniversary

Accent set to keep the good times rolling for Hyundai





Load up the Jazz for Honda's online photo contest

THE AWARD-WINNING Nissan VQ V6 engine.

The Teana Alternative

THE NEW Teana, Nissan's flagship model.

ON THE ROAD

Korean GP is F1 season's best-promoted race

[illegible]

Reuters

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining

Ito Kish reinvents himself—yet again

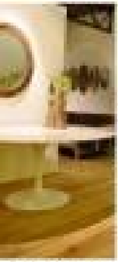
He looks back on the ups and downs of his decade-long career—and reveals how he's still 'defying rules'

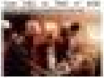
FORWARD-LOOKING DESIGN consultant Margarita "Ito" Gallardo Kish, al- [illegible]

Ambition

[illegible]

Ito Kish reinvents himself—yet again





Bill seeks limit on credit card interest rates

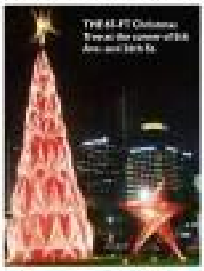
THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolido

> It could be a boon to the 4 million Filipinos who today hold 6.5 million credit cards

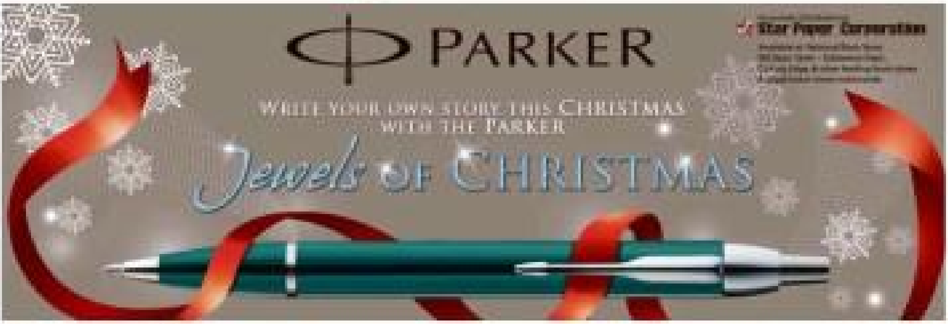
Unhappy customer

Prompt response

Fun tour of public artworks



LifeStyle Parenting



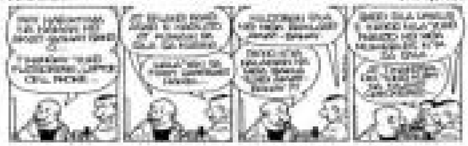
To pass college entrance test, use of both left and right brain crucial

Study center incorporates visuals, what-if scenarios and other situations that appeal to right-brainers

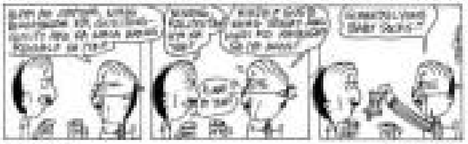
GARFIELD

A. LIPIN

PUGAD BABOY

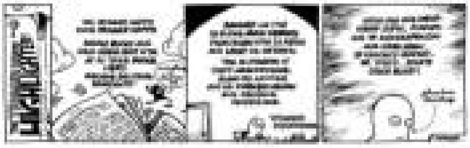


DICK TRACY



BABY BLUES

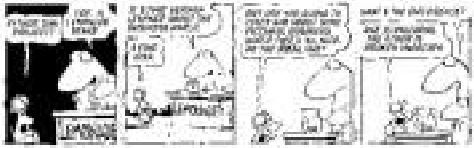
KIKO MACHINE

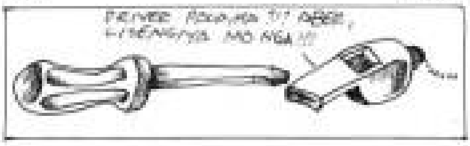


BEN

ANG DRAYBER

SHERMAN'S LAGOON





HOROSCOPE

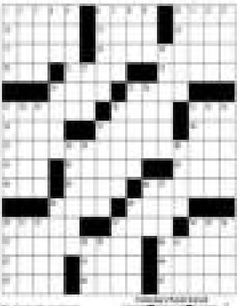
CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

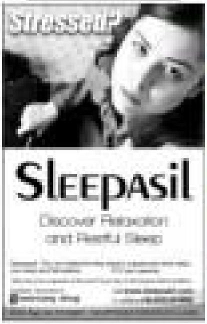
			5	9				
			4		3	7		
		4					8	
	2		6					9
8					1			5
4		1	2	7				8
1	8		9				2	
		7				9		
		5	1	2	7	8	4	

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

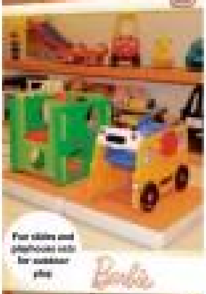


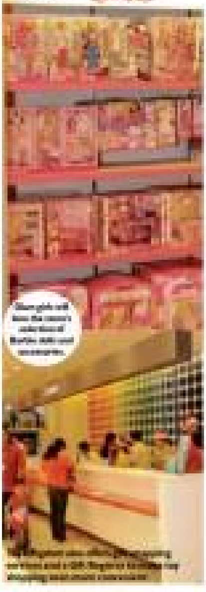
To pass college entrance test, use of both left and right brain crucial

Good instruction



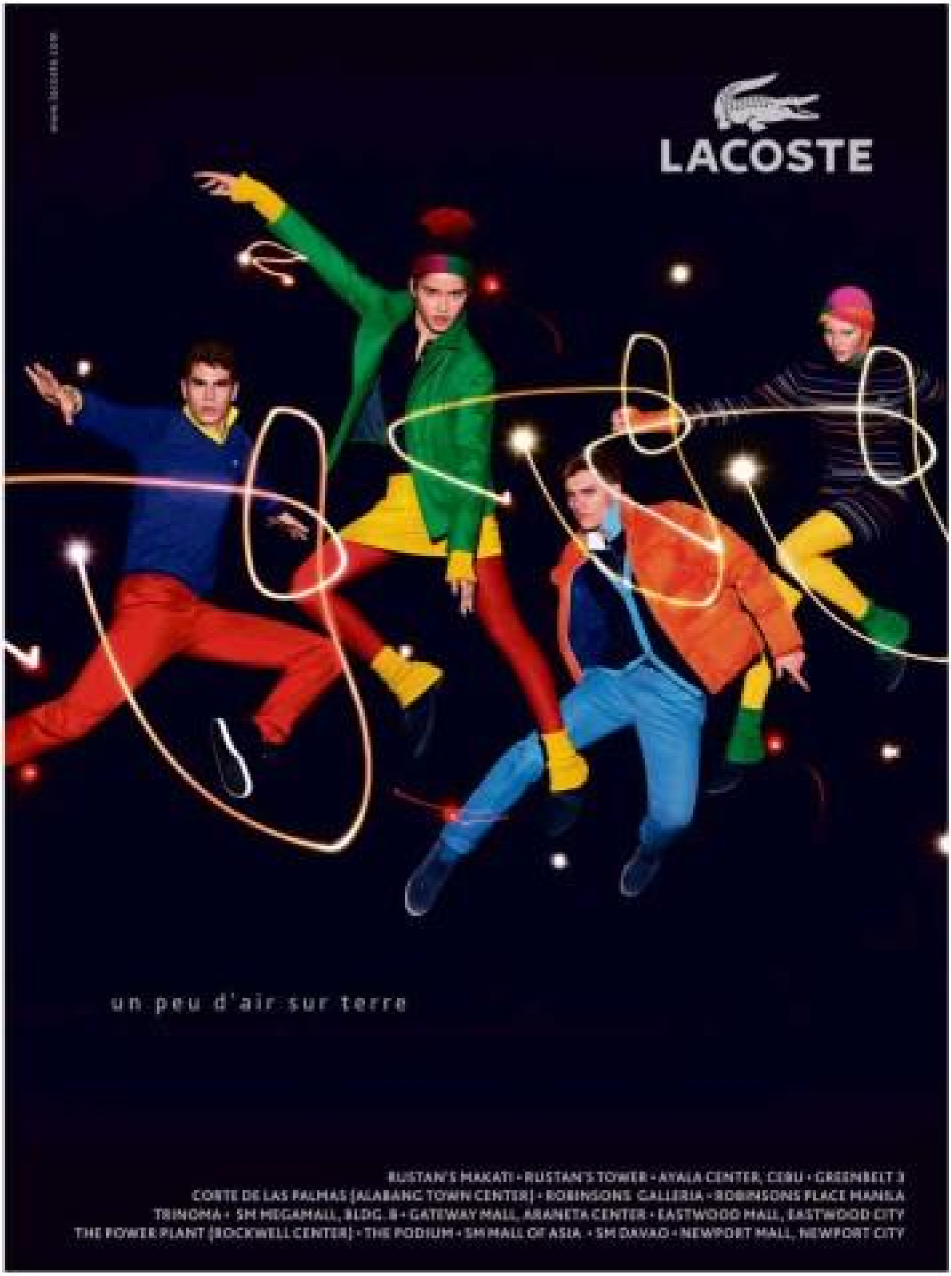
TOY KINGDOM OPENS AT SM SOUTHMALL





LIFESTYLE *Parenting*

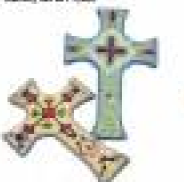
On 'puwera usog,' first haircuts and other 'pamahiin'



On 'puwera usog,' first haircuts, and other 'pamahiin'

I will press those precious strands inside different books—encyclopedia, medical, legal, accounting books, you name it!

Nativity scenes at one-step religious shop



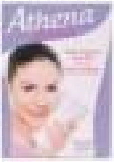
Star in your own baby shower episode on TV

Johnson's 'First time, Every time' promo celebrates milestone moments in parenting

Smart shopping with one's kids

New product boosts baby skincare

Milk for women combines beauty, nutrition benefits



LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining

How to maximize minimum space

Interior design experts urge a streamlined look that would please the eye as well as boost easy maintenance

SPACE maximization specialist Tessy Rea-Antonio and interior designer Marcelo Alonzo

By Annalie S. Tayao

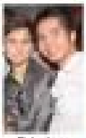
HIGH-RISE LIVING has, for some time now, been the popular choice for those wanting to build their first home. But with the limited floor area offered by even the most expensive of condos, it's a challenge maximizing whatever space is available to turn a bare unit into one's dream home.

[illegible]

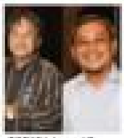
Five tips

[illegible]

HOST of the event Becky Garcia with celebrator Lani Schoof, Ben Chanh Bioguan, Jo Pinter and Marelin Agbayani


ROCHELLE Blanquer, Georgia Blanquer, Tesha de Castro, Jayvee and Chedo Blanquer

FRANZISKA, Retro Alexandra and Margretha Klasser with Sally Magsi


OSCAR Julian and Fr. Fred Julian

JANET Tesoro, Lani S., Jackie Mitchell and Susan Chua

OUR Queen for a Day Lani Schoof (center) with Amanda Elizondolan, Lani's son and daughter, Christian and Karina Schoof Chu with her husband Bryant Chu, and some Brazilian hunks (back)

ELENA Uy, Belen Nazal and Marup Aragon

BETTY Vergara, Lani Schoof, Alexis Pulo and Lilibeth de Castro

DONDON Blanquer, Georgia Blanquer, Lani Schoof and Adam Singson

Boholano philanthropist Lani Schoof's party rocks to psychedelic beat

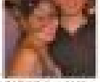
MIGUEL Rodriguez with his ladylove Chicho Soanes

CHICHO Soanes, Casa Nami owner Tessa Santos and Hazel Moreno

BROTHERS Juni, Miguel and Marco Rodriguez

EUNICE Alba, Juni Rodriguez, Frida Perdiena

MIGUEL R., Luigo Garcia, Meg Bernardino, Gil Martinez and Andres Bernardino


CARMINA and Miko Jacob

CRISTINA Co and Michelle Pandimon

LANI JUBAL SCHOOF, a philanthropist from Alburquerque, Bohol, and wife of business magnate German expat Hans Gunter Schoof, recently hosted a fab bash that turned back the hands of time and brought us back to the psychedelic era, dahlings.

Those great, lovin' all-hang-out fun days of the 1960s and 1970s, with music by icons Bob Dylan, Simon and Garfunkel and the Beatles, and "peace, love and harmony" in the air, were relived at Velocity Bar, Makati Hotel, in Pasay City, where the party was held.

Helping entertain her 100 or so invited guests were her brood, only son Frederick Christian J. Schoof, who manages the family's hotel, The Peacock Garden in Baclayon, Bohol, and Karina Christel Marie, married to Bryan Chu.

Lani made her grand entrance in the arms of two hunky Brazilian models, pakingans! With this bash, she was on to another chapter in the book of her life, now filled with works for charity from lending a hand to Bohol's less fortunate children, to supporting the province's schools, hospitals and churches.

Classic songs from that era, played by Spirit of '67 band, had Lani's baby boomer pals setting the dance floor on fire. Along with free-flowing booze and yummy dishes, the dancing lasted till—take note, dahlings—5 a.m., when the hotel's management had to practically sweep them out. The crowd repaired to the coffee shop, where they dug in to an early breakfast before calling it a day.

Cheers to our pakingan and Queen for a Day, Bohol matron Lani Schoof!

Miguel Rodriguez's hat party

Beautiful faces from our town's young and fashionable set recently filled the swanky new watering-hole-cum-pub on Jupiter Street called Casa Nami, pakingans. It was the birthday of young actor Miguel Rodriguez, who came with his ladylove, my pakingan Chicho Soanes, who played hostess for this happening.

Casa Nami, a franchise from Greece owned and operated by Mindanao Tessa Santos and her partners, welcomed our Prince for the Night, who came dressed as a handsome cowboy. The 100 or so invited guests also heeded to wearing their favorite hats—from feathers to gift box to wide-brimmed ones.

The glamorous partying gang downed their drinks, which got them on a roll and had them dancing up a storm. Many staggered home way past Cinderella's bedtime, dahlings.

Here's to another successful year for Miguel Rodriguez!

Dusit Thani Hotel's Christmas trees

This posh Dusit, Dusit Thani, launched its Christmas theme this year, "Oh Christmas Tree! Oh Christmas Tree!" by inviting 12 movers and shakers and companies to design their very own symbolic Christmas trees in the hotel lobby—trees "that best make their statement in the industry and society they are in," as explained by Dusit's PR asset, Danielle Palang, dahlings.

The companies and celebrities included Cravin, Gabbie Lopez, HSBC, interior designer Jorgino Alphiora, Lifestyle Asia Magazine, Lyceum of the Philippines University, Kaye Lucas, the School of Fashion and Arts, Teddy Manuel, Tesoro's Philippine Handicrafts, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Thai Airways and Tim Yap.

The hotel is inviting its in-house and dining guests, and Facebook friends to cast their votes for the best Christmas Tree of their choice, with P100,000 to be donated to the winning entry's chosen charity. Voting is until Christmas Day. Visit www.facebook.com /dusitthani.manila.

Muji opens in Manila

When I got an invite for the opening of Muji from premier retailer Stores Specialists Inc., I rejoiced. Wow, Muji has finally landed in Manila!

At the grand launch of Muji's flagship Manila store in Bonifacio High Street, Taguig, I met Muji president Masaaki Kanai, who was with OM Kiyoshi Mitsumi, Rustan Commercial Corp. president Nedy Tantoco, SSI executive VP Anton Huang and its GM, Elizabeth Quisumbing, dahlings.

Available in the spanking-new store are the latest offerings from the brand. Invitees were treated to an exclusive shopping experience, plus a fashion collection styled by super Muji follower Cecile Zamora Van Straten.

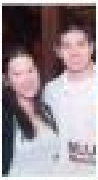
Music was provided by DJ Jojie Samson, while yummy Japanese favorites were served, along with drinks in de-stress drinks, thanks to Kraft's Wines & Spirits, natch.

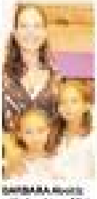
"Starting from a lineup of 40 products, Muji has now expanded to 7,000 products sold in 25 countries around the globe, establishing itself as a Japanese brand that provides sensible, functional and relevant quality lifestyle products," said managing Muji Francisco of SSI.

If you haven't checked out Muji yet, go, pakingans! I'm sure it would be your last visit to this store!

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen powered by HSBC MUSIC SERIES

RUBY Chan with sons Ralph and Martin at the Muji store opening


SSI'S Mike Huang and wife Kathy Yap

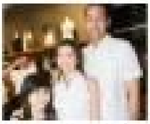

BARBARA Hoxley with daughters Alicia and Stefanie

RUSTAN'S Supermarkets Inc. president Donnie Tantoco with Muji president Masaaki Kanai, Rustan Commercial Corp. president Nedy Tantoco, SSI EVP Anton Huang and SSI GM Elizabeth Quisumbing

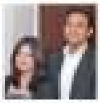
KAYE Tinga with daughters Kerry and Kyla

AYALA Malls Group AVP Jori Fernandez, Anton Huang and Ricky Delgado

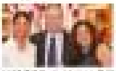
BJT Zobel and daughter Kaya with Mina Harvey


ERIC and Michelle Reyes with daughter Mikaela

DUSIT Thani Manila's director of finance Jan Gomez, guest of honor Mayor Junjun Binay, hotel auditor Bing Carrion, hotel first couple Yvonne Lok and husband Prakash Kumar


GARY Ignacio and JP Cura

LYCEUM of the Philippines University's Ms. Cristina Aquino, executive director for planning & development Sandra Bacna, director for communication and public affairs, Lorna P. Laurel, board chair and concerned order Roxy Mansandang, Lyceum president Roberto Laurel


HSBC'S Stalla Fadol, SVP and head of personal financial services Ron Lagos, and Johanna Garcia

ROBERT Tesoro of Tesoro's, Thai Airways' Mimie Chantarachai, Dusit Thani GM Prakash Kumar, Lyceum University president Roberto Laurel, Coravi CEO Alvin Ching, Teddy Manuel (seated), Rafu ambassador London Bortz, Soleng, Gabbie Lopez, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, HSBC Group communications SVP Johanna Garcia and Tim Yap

TESSA Prieto-Valdes with daughter Athena at left, some of the Christmas trees on display at the Dusit Thani hotel lobby

Eight-page gift guide for mag's readers

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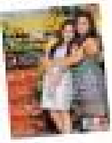

Gift ideas and home solutions

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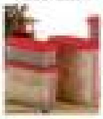
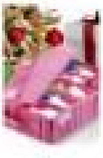




[illegible]

How to maximize minimum space

From page F1

• Floating cabinets are good for storage, as the space that's left beneath them can be used for other purposes.

• If you're going to splurge on one room, make it the bedroom.

• Choose furniture that will grow old with you. They may be pricey, but you can keep it for a long time and pass it on.

• Go for both decorative and functional pieces.

• Don't load up on too many accessories, to avoid clutter from building up.

• Mix only a maximum of three colors in a room.

New loan program

Of course, paying for one's dream home is never easy, hence HSBC's new Home Loan program that you can design yourself, just as you would your new home. The bank offers a 5.95 percent per annum rate for a one-year, fixed re-pricing period.

One can choose whether to pay monthly or every two weeks, "depending on your cash flow situation," said Annette Tirol, HSBC deputy head of personal financial services. Those who prefer to take out their loan using US dollars can get an even lower rate of 3.99 percent (also for the one-year re-pricing scheme).

Also, for interest calculation, one can either go for the Straight-line option, which will "tally forecast amortization cost and other expenses", or the Reducing Balance option, which allows one to "pay off principal faster for greater interest savings."

"The idea is to design the loan to suit you," said Tirol. "And, also, [for HSBC] to build a relationship with you."

HSBC group communications and sustainability VP and head Johanna Garcia and personal financial services head [illegible]

HSBC deputy head of personal financial services Annette Tirol and group communications AVP [illegible]

Furniture for every space at Makati design plaza

THIS HOLIDAY season, give your family and friends living room showcases to brighten up their lives throughout the year.

Visit [illegible] Design Plaza at [illegible] Makati City, your one-stop lifestyle center, to find the right gifts for your loved ones, whether it be a complete set or just pieces of furniture or accessories. Here are some beautiful suggestions:

Reward yourself with a meditation corner, where you can sit comfortably and just empty your mind, or read, listen to music, or check e-mail.

For grandma, mom, aunt, or [illegible], why not give them a simple but elegant easy chair, a lamp shade with a [illegible], or similar decor featuring spaces to reflect on?

Delight and empower the beloved preschooler with a space all her own, with these colorful kiddie chairs.

Your college son or daughter will appreciate this elegant living room showcase that's perfect for a studio-type apartment or condo unit.

For your daughter, create a special getaway corner where she can relax after work or classes, with these cozy chairs and pillows.

Your teenage boy needs space, too. Give him an easy chair with a back pillow and a drawer to keep his favorite DVDs, flash drives and school stuff, as well as an open [illegible] to manage his favorite magazines and books.

Call [illegible]

STUDY corner with colorful kiddie chairs for preschoolers

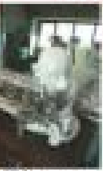
2011 CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE

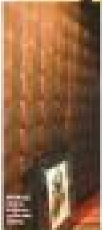
[illegible] calendars are available at [illegible] Calendar Kiosks at the [illegible] Place in Ermita, Manila [illegible]. Choose from over 200 unique calendars. Themes include [illegible], friendship, family and home, mind, body and spirit, art, language, music, sports, entertainment, kids and dogs. Also available are 2011 pocket planners. Call [illegible]

LifeStyle Home&Entertaining

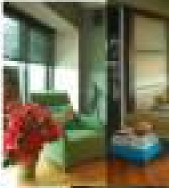
Rajo Laurel's condo is holiday-ready

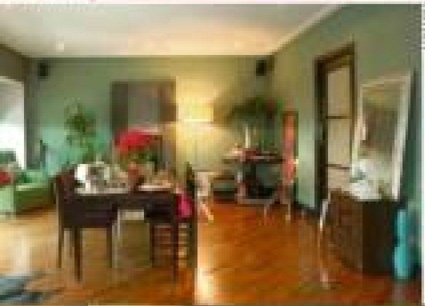
How his partner, interior designer Nix Alañon, gives the small space not only the Christmas look, but also, the Christmas feel

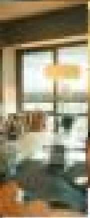


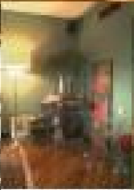


Rajo Laurel's condo is holiday-ready

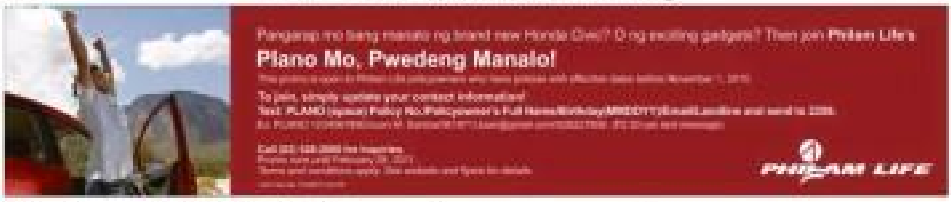








'Peter Pan' at Festival mall



Make old Christmas decor good as new

Do-it-yourself

USHER IN the merry season by breathing new life into tired old Christmas décor. All you need is a little imagination and some elbow grease. You can even make this a family activity to make it more meaningful and memorable.

All you need is your imagination —and a glue gun

European look for home store at southern mall

Wonderful GIFT ideas for your last minute shopping!
I love Christmas shopping!
DEPARTMENT STORE

TOUGHIES
boyish charm
bold & playful
dare to express
sporty fun
high energy
Celebrate
Let little feet hop, skip, jump with joy!
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
plum sparkles
lollipop red
holiday shimmer
peach blossoms
choco love
Sugarkids

Sparkle
Let kids shine in their Christmas best!
DEPARTMENT STORE

Indulge
A bit of naughty, a lot of nice with sexy shoes and bags.
DEPARTMENT STORE
PARISIAN

Shine
Look beautiful and feel amazing in the hottest holiday looks.
DEPARTMENT STORE

'S MERRY, BRIGHT, AND A TOTAL DELIGHT!
Shimmer
Feel and look fabulous from top to toe.
DEPARTMENT STORE

blush sleeveless dress, **ENCORE**

blush beige draped skirt, **ENCORE**

light brown jumpsuit, **ENCORE**

dark beige draped dress, **ENCORE**

black dress, **ENCORE**

black metallic blouse, **NY SQUARE**

gold top, **SOIRÉE**

black fringe mini skirt, **SOIRÉE**

black draped skirt, **SOIRÉE**

SALVATORE MANN
MILANOS
Impress
Put your best feet forward this Christmas.
DEPARTMENT STORE
MILANOS
SALVATORE MANN

T.R.U.
DENIM
UBERTO DURANTI
MAN OF POWER
COTTON CREW
Dazzle
Real men dress in style.
DEPARTMENT STORE
V+
JEANS
MarkuS

Canon
Canon
OLYMPUS
Enjoy
Go gaga over gadgets this season!
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
Nikon
D90
SAMSUNG
MAGIC SING

Surprise
Gifts too good
to keep
under wraps!
DEPARTMENT STORE

Have a merry shopping season!
Renew your
SM Advantage Card today!
Only P85
ADVANTAGE
Your perks and privileges for the holidays
from
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
FREE
GIFT WRAPPING
GIVE THE GIFT THEY WANT
GIFT CARDS AT
P500, P1,000 & P2,000
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
P500
SM GIFTCARD
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
P1000
SM GIFTCARD
0%
INTEREST
6 Months Installment
HOLIDAY HOURS
10AM-10PM
**EXCEPT ON
DEC. 18 (SAT) & 23 (THU)
DEC. 24 & 31 (FRI)
DEC. 25 (SAT)
JAN. 01, 2011 (SAT)
CLOSED
EXCEPT MOA

GADGETS GALLERY

Intel to deliver seamless experience across connected devices

By Raquel F. Gomez

Enjoy the wonders of Android with Galaxy 5

GADGETS Giveaways

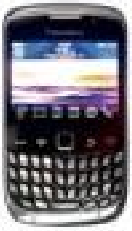
'Dress up' Pentax's new compact camera

RS 1000

GE X5: affordable camera packed with features

GE X5

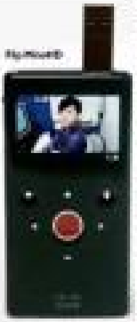
Blackberry Curve



Curve 3G 9300

Stream popular movies and personal content with WD's HD Media Center

Fast and fun sharing of videos with the new Flip



Flip MinoHD

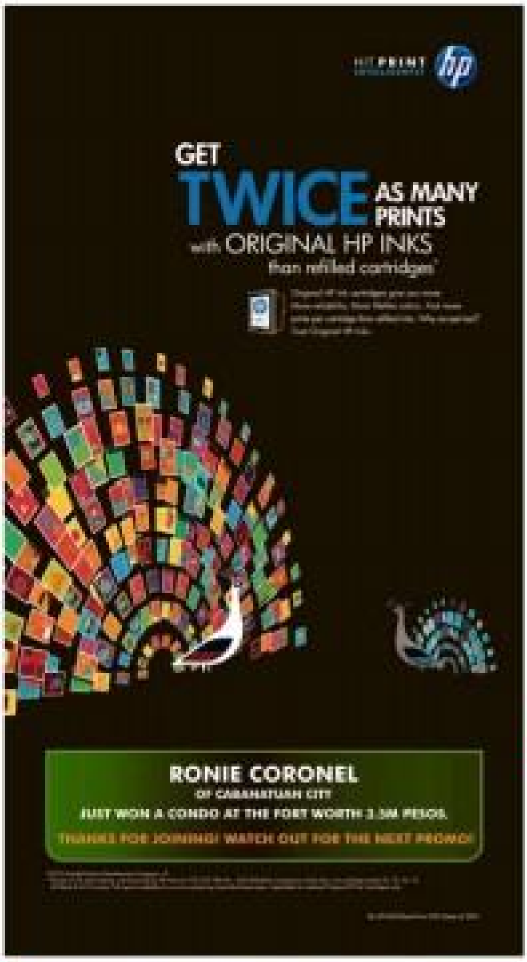
Nikon's new imaging innovations

X-Mini Capsule Speakers: Perfect sound trip gifts

X-mini Capsule Speakers

A most desired smart phone

HTC's most high-end Android smart phone HTC HD Desire has specs and features that could whet one's appetite for a cool device to own this Christmas



HP delivers the instant-on enterprise for business and government

[illegible]

Globe's holiday deals

[illegible]

New Acer rack servers

[illegible]

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Bayani San Diego Jr.

WISHLIST — ALI SOTTO

IF I WERE the President, I'd issue this Executive Order: ... one can eat everything and anything one's heart desires. And not gain an ounce. Ok." Feliz Navidad to everyone! Bayani San Diego Jr.

The good fight

There's life after the 'Race,' winners and runners-up discover

WINNING tandem Richard Hardin (left) and Richard Herrera

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Richard Reyes

SINGAPORE—The fourth season of "The Amazing Race Asia" turned out to be "A Show of Riches."

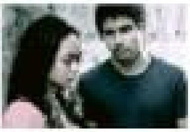
The Philippine team, composed of athlete Richard Hardin and model Richard Herrera (a.k.a. "The Riches"), bested nine other duos from all over the region, racing across 15 cities in eight countries, covering over 30,000 kilometers and

THE GOOD FIGHT

Never too late to help out

DEREK Ramsay

[illegible]



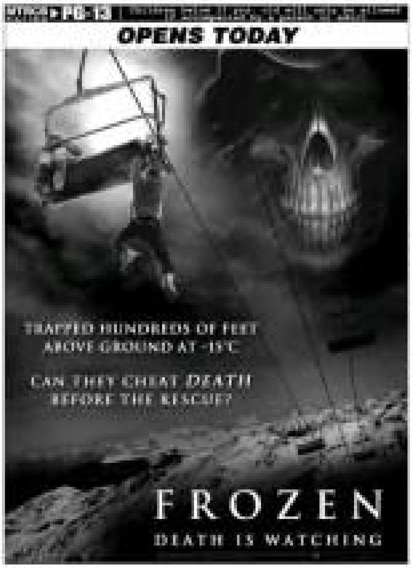
"KARERA"

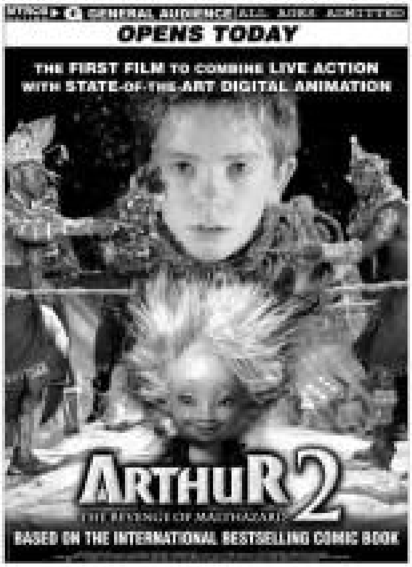
Opening This Week

Karera
Directed by Adolfo Alix Jr.; stars Laurice Guillen, [illegible], Jay Manalo, [illegible], Mercedes Cabral, Alan Paule, Arnold Reyes
[illegible]

Tron Legacy
Directed by Joseph Kosinski; stars Jeff Bridges, Garrett Hedlund, [illegible], Olivia Wilde, Bruce Boxleitner, Michael Sheen
[illegible]

"PRESA"





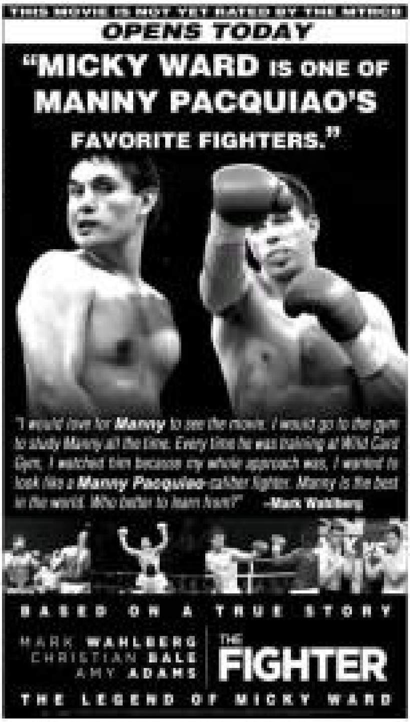
PACQUIAO glad to have inspired MARK WAHLBERG in "THE FIGHTER"

Actor Mark Wahlberg (LEFT) together with [illegible] world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao (RIGHT).

Boxing champion **Manny Pacquiao** is pleased to have inspired American actor **Mark Wahlberg**, who observed the Filipino's training for the film "**The Fighter**" opening Dec. 15 worldwide.

Pacquiao served as Wahlberg's model in his portrayal of retired boxer Mickey "Irish" Ward in the movie.

"Every time he was training at Wild Card Gym, I watched him because my whole approach was, I wanted to look like a Manny Pacquiao-caliber fighter. I didn't want to look like another actor who's doing another job. Manny is the best in the world. Who better to learn from?" said the actor to [illegible].



"THE FIGHTER"

The Fighter
Directed by David O'Russell; stars Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale, Melissa Leo, Amy Adams, Jack McGee
Boxer Micky Ward (Wahlberg) [illegible]

"ARTHUR 2: The Revenge of Maltazard"

Arthur 2: The Revenge of Maltazard
Directed by Luc Besson; stars Freddie Highmore, Mia Farrow, Ronald Crawford, Armand, Will.i.am, Lou Reed, Selena Gomez
Arthur (Highmore) returns to an enchanted world, to save a princess (Gomez) in distress, but a trap awaits him. [illegible]

Frozen
Directed by Adam Green; stars Emma Bell, Shawn Ashmore, Kevin Zegers, [illegible]
[illegible]

MMFF Indies
Five independent films will be shown at Cinema [illegible] of Robinsons Galleria from Dec. [illegible]. Adolfo Alix Jr.'s "Presa" [illegible]

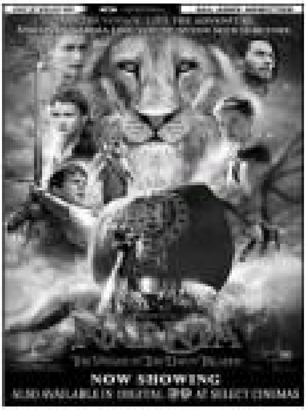
The good fight

Sweet Cristine Reyes turns bitchy

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Love child



Wedding invite

Agimat meets Enteng

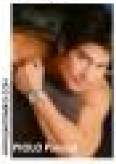
Sleeping ...

Sleeping with the enemy

JEWEL Mische

RUSHES

In and out

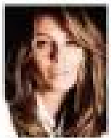

PIOLO Pascual

Busy Jewel

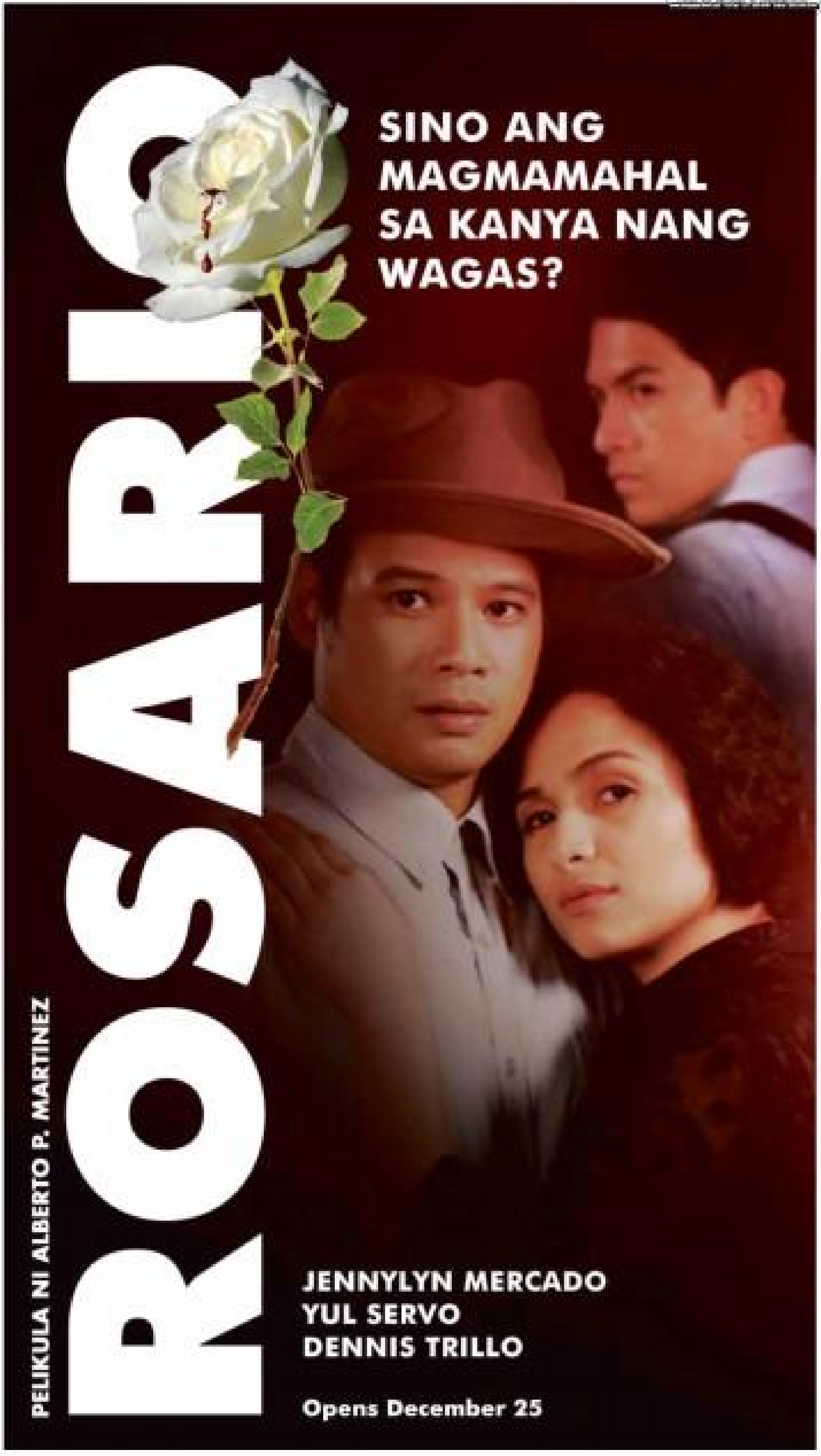
Rocker leader

ELTON John

The split came first


LIZ Hurley

Top of the talk shows


ROSARIO
SINO ANG MAGMAMAHAL SA KANYA NANG WAGAS?
PELIKULA NI ALBERTO P. MARTINEZ
JENNYLYN MERCADO
YUL SERVO
DENNIS TRILLO
Opens December 25